

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 8074

BILL NUMBER: SB 404

DATE PREPARED: Jan 15, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Certified Food Handlers.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires that, after December 31, 2004, every food establishment must have at least one certified food handler. The bill exempts certain food handling activities from the requirement to have a certified food handler. The bill also requires the State Department of Health to establish standards not later than December 31, 2003, for recognizing certification programs for food handlers. It preempts local health departments from regulating food handlers. The bill further requires the State Department of Health to establish penalties for violations of the chapter.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Executive Board of the Department of Health is required to adopt rules that establish standards for the implementation of this bill. The Department would be required to establish requirements for food borne illness prevention training and recognize other certification programs that meet similar standards, such as examinations recognized by the Conference for Food Protection.

The number of potential food handlers is indeterminable, but is expected to be significant given the many different types of facilities that store, prepare, display, or serve food to the public. As an illustration of the potential number, the U.S. Census Bureau reports that in 1994, 34,500 food stores and 10,200 eating and drinking places were located in Indiana, for a total of 44,700 establishments. However, these figures may not include all establishments that would need a certified food handler. Other establishments whose primary focus is not food, such as drug stores; gasoline stations; amusement facilities; institutional cafeterias in schools, hospitals, etc., may not be included in the data.

Costs for this bill will be determined by the rules adopted by the Department of Health.

These costs will be updated when additional information becomes available.

The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) Existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) Existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) Authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) Funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) New appropriations. According to the State Budget Agency's "General Fund Reversion Summary for State Fiscal Year 1999-2000", the Department of Health reverted \$993,931 in State General Funds at the end of FY 2000. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

The bill contains no appropriations.

In addition to the above, state and local facilities that provide food to the public could experience an increase in expenses. Requiring governmental facilities to employ certified food handlers could increase personnel costs, or the facilities could elect to pay for training of current employees. Facilities that provide food via contract may also experience an increase in costs if any additional expenses experienced by contractors are passed on to the governmental unit for whom the contractor provides services.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: See Explanation of State Expenditures, above.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Health, state facilities and institutions that prepare food for patrons and the public in consideration of payment.

Local Agencies Affected: Local government facilities that offer food to the public.

Information Sources: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1997; U.S. Department of Commerce; Bureau of the Census.